

February 7, 2024

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of the State of North Dakota's request for a presidential major disaster declaration submitted by Governor Doug Burgum on January 26, 2024. The major disaster declaration has been requested due to damages caused by a severe winter ice storm that occurred across North Dakota from December 25, 2023 to December 27, 2023. We appreciate your consideration of the State's request for assistance.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), "a major ice storm impacted portions of the Northern Plains between December 25-27, 2023. Significant impacts from ice accumulations over 1.0 inch occurred in portions of southeast North Dakota into far northeast South Dakota." Significant accumulation of freezing rain, combined with straight-line winds in excess of 40 miles per hour (MPH), resulted in difficult to impossible travel conditions, including interstate closures and cancelations at the Fargo and Grand Forks airports; extensive tree damage; and disruptions to emergency services, government and business operations, and school activities. Further, the ice storm destroyed over 2,000 electrical poles, resulting in over 20,000 North Dakota residents being without power for days. Preliminary Damage Assessments indicate more than \$11.5 million in expected damages.

North Dakota continues to recover from the late December ice storm and is therefore requesting a major disaster declaration for 13 counties. These counties include Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Grant, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, and Traill. The counties of Burleigh, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, and Wells also experienced damages due to this event, but did not have enough damages to exceed the required per capita thresholds as indicated by the governor. Just like with previous disasters, the State is also requesting it be designated as a Public Assistance Managing State and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be implemented on a statewide basis.

We support the State's request and urge you to approve it as soon as possible so the necessary Federal resources can be made available to North Dakotans. Thank you for your prompt attention to our request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Senator



KELLY ARMSTRONG
U.S. Congressman